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2 Carter Backers Challenge

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Two Democratic senators who have generally supported the Carter administration, Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota and John H. Glenn Jr. of Ohio, are preparing a report challenging some aspects of administration plans to withdraw U.S. ground troops from South Korea.

According to persons in the administration and on Capitol Hill who have taken part in discussions on preparation of the report, its overall

content will accept the withdrawal decision and provide a planning guide for the actions that Congress will be called upon to implement it.

But the report will raise questions on the way the decision to withdraw troops was taken, whether the withdrawal can be accomplished by the administration's 1982 deadline without creating military risks, whether allies were adequately consulted and other points.

A DRAFT of the report is scheduled to be sent to the administration

this week for review of the material in it. Secret information on troop deployments, weapons and related matters went into its preparation, and some of it might have to be censored before publication.

The report is to be published early next year. It is not yet decided whether it will be issued only in the names of the two senators or by subcommittees of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that they head, Humphrey's foreign assistance panel, and Glenn's East Asian and Pacific affairs group.

Carter campaigned for the presidency with a promise to remove U.S. ground forces from South Korea. He proposed to leave the approximately 7,000 U.S. Air Force personnel there to provide aerial protection, with naval support pledged to back them up in defending the South against any attack from Communist North Korea.

That platform plank seemed to have originated with his educational briefings on foreign and defense mat-

Korea Troop Plan

ters at the Brookings Institution. Its specialists had been publicly recommending that the U.S. Army commitment in East Asia be reduced so that more American troops would be available for general worldwide use.

THE CURRENT plan is to withdraw the approximately 33,000 ground troops by 1982. Some 6,000 of them will leave Korea next year. Firm plans have not yet been made on the phasing of later withdrawals, but a decision was announced in July to leave a significant element of combat power until the final departures.

The plans have been criticized in Congress as inadequately considered. Congressional displeasure with the idea reached a peak in hearings in July.

The army's chief of staff, Gen. Bernard W. Rogers, testified that the joint chiefs had recommended that "there should be no significant reduction." Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the CIA, reportedly testified in a closed session that it was dangerous to change the present balance of forces on the Korean peninsula.

Humphrey ordered at that time that staff work begin on a fresh appraisal of the situation. Glenn and a staff aide visited Korea to investigate the situation.

Their report has stirred some hope in the Pentagon of strong new support for the military's opposition to the withdrawal. But one source familiar with the draft said it does not "take up the Pentagon's case." Hopes that a powerful senator like Humphrey might directly confront Carter on this issue "are just wishful thinking," the source said.

THE TROOP withdrawal issue has become tangled with South Korea's failure to cooperate with

U.S. investigations of allegations that the Seoul government bribed members of Congress and with charges of human rights violations in South Korea.

Carter submitted to Congress on Oct. 21 a request for \$800 million worth of military aid to equip South Korean troops to take over defensive roles now filled by Americans. The aid was seen by some members of Congress as a price for getting U.S. troops out.

The combination of congressional displeasure over the bribery scandal, dislike for human rights violations, and apprehension about the wisdom of withdrawing the troops caused leaders of Congress to postpone any consideration of the \$800 million request until next year.